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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
09/808,303	03/14/2001	Yoshihito Ishibashi	09792909-4859	3750		
26263	7590	01/06/2009	EXAMINER			
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP P.O. BOX 061080 WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080				THEIN, MARIA TERESA T		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/808,303	ISHIBASHI, YOSHIHITO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MARISSA THEIN	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 28, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's "Request for Continued Examination" filed on October 28, 2008 has been considered.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are amended. Claims 18-79 are cancelled. Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The recitations of "distributing the first of the

plurality of user devices to a second of the plurality of user devices" and "a second of the plurality of user devices" are not supported in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 to Ginter.

Regarding claims 1, Ginter discloses a content secondary distribution management system comprising: a plurality of user devices which manage secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between the plurality of user devices (see at least Figure 77; col. 280, lines 59-65; col. 261, lines 10-48), wherein a first settlement log is issued from a first of the plurality of user devices to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the first of the plurality of user devices to a second of the plurality of user devices (see at least co. 6, lines 14-28; col. 142, lines 10-15; col. 142, lines 35-40; col. 261, lines 10-34; col. 263, lines 5-10; col. 168, lines 26-27; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5; col. 329, lines 11-45; col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4) and a second settlement

log is issued from the second of the plurality of user devices to said to said first of the plurality of user devices and said first of the plurality of user devices issues said second settlement log every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user devices (see at least col. 6, lines 15-28; col. 142, lines 35- 40; col. 296, lines 19-38; col. 141, line 57-col. 142, line 40; Figure 79; col. 329, lines 11-45; col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4) one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second user device (see at least col. 261, lines 10-34; col. 263, lines 5-10; col. 168, lines 26-27; col. 327, lines 30-39; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5), and a settlement processing for the content is performed based on both the first settlement log and the second settlement log under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center (see at least Figure 77; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5).

Regarding claim 2, Ginter discloses a content receiving user (end user) device for receiving the content from said first of the plurality of users devices deducts a content usage fee from an electronic money balance up to an allowable amount of money set in an issue log based on information of usage control policy of the content, the content receiving user device creates a usage log; said first of the plurality of user devices creates a receive log and sends the receive log to the service provider and a clearing center; and the service provider and the clearing center performs the settlement processing for the electronic money for the use of the content based on the receive log from said first of the plurality of user devices and requests and account management institution to perform transfer processing for the content usage fee; and the account management institution performs the transfer processing (see at least col.

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6, lines 14-28; Figure 25A; col. 42, line 59 – col. 43, line 20; col. 281, lines 33-44; col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4).

Regarding claims 3-8 and 10-16, Ginter discloses:

- the content to be distributed between said plurality of user devices is contained in a secure container which stores a content price and information of the usage control policy including profit distribution information (see at least col. 59, lines 36-61; col. 279, lines 13-20; col. 279, lines 42-49; col. 292, lines 15-27), and wherein the service provider and the clearing center constructs a form of the transfer processing according to a log containing a content fee payer and a content fee receiver based on the profit distribution information (see at least col. 6, lines 14-28; col. 59, lines 36-61; col. 279, lines 21-31; col. 279, lines 42-49; col. 292, lines 15-27);
- the usage control policy information includes indicating whether the secondary distribution of the content between the user devices is allowed, and wherein upon receiving the receive log created for a content in which the secondary distribution is not allowed, the service provider and the clearing center nullifies settlement processing to be performed for the receive log (see at least col. 279, lines 21-31; col. 281, lines 23-41);
- each of said plurality of user devices for performing the transaction of the content comprises an encryption processing unit, mutual authentication processing, and the user devices attach a digital signature and verify the digital signature (see at least col. 6, lines 14-28; col. 21, line 60 – col. 22, line 25; col. 257, lines 33-36);

- the plurality of user devices, service provider, and clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, mutual authentication processing, attach a digital signature and verify the digital signature (see at least col. 6, lines 14-28; col. 21, line 60 – col. 22, line 25; col. 257, lines 33-36);
- the clearing center comprises a user balance database for managing an electronic money balance of the content and creates an issue log in which an allowable amount of money is set up to electronic money balance (see at least col. 36, lines 10-43; col. 40, lines 3-61; col. 280, lines 22-26); and
- usage control policy information includes profit distribution information of the content usage fee, and usage log and receive log include the profit distribution information, the service provider and clearing center performs the settlement processing for the content usage fee based on profit distribution information also sends the transfer request to the account management institution (see at least col. 36, lines 10-43; col. 40, lines 3-61).

Regarding claims 9 and 17, Ginter discloses a method and a computer-readable medium having stored therein computer-executable instructions for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable a user device is performed between a plurality for user devices (see at least Figure 77; col. 280, lines 59-65; col. 261, lines 10-48), comprising: issuing a settlement log for the use of the content from a first of the plurality of user devices to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the first user device to a second of the of user devices issues said second settlement log (see at least col. 6, lines 14-28;

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col. 142, lines 10-15; col. 142, lines 35- 40; col. 296, lines 19-28; col. 141, line 57-col. 142, line 40; Figure 79; col. 329, lines 11-45; col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4); issuing said second settlement log for the use of the content from said first of the plurality of user devices to said service provider and a clearing center every time an identical content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user devices (see at least col. 6, lines 14-28; col. 261, lines 10-34; col. 263, lines 5-10; col. 168, lines 26-27; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5; Figure 79; col. 379, lines 11-45; col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4); and performing settlement processing for the identical content based on the settlement log under the management of the service provider and a clearing center (see at least Figure 77; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5); and performing settlement processing for the content based on the first settlement log and the second settlement log under the management of said of a service provider and a clearing center (see at least Figure 77; col. 281, line 10- col. 282, line 5).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 28, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant remarks that "Ginter fails to teach or suggest that the first of the plurality of users who initially distributed the content to the second of the plurality of user devices, is the one who issues the second settlement log to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second of plurality of user devices, as required by claim 1".

The Examiner does not agree. Ginter discloses the recitation above. Ginter discloses the chain of handling and controlling, wherein the VDE (video distribution environment) can protect a collection of rights in, or to, electronic information. The information may be at one location or dispersed across multiple locations. The information may pass through a chain of distributors and a chain of users. Usage information may also be reported through one or more chains of parties. VDE enables parties that have rights in electronic information, and/or act as direct or indirect agents for parties who have rights in electronic information to ensure that the moving, accessing, modifying or otherwise using of information can be securely controlled by rules regarding how, when, and by whom such activities can be performed. (Col. 6, lines 14-28). Ginter further discloses the administrative objects containing audit information in the data area of an event record can be sent from end users to distributors, and/or clearing houses and/or client administrators. (Col. 142, lines 35-40) The audit packets may be required to be dispersed directly from a user to a plurality of auditors (col. 296, lines 31-33). Ginter further discloses a creator or other controlling party may give distributor the right to process 100,000 audit records (for example, the right to process 12 audit records from a user). An object creator and distributor may require audit information to be passed back to it. (col. 295, lines 53-col. 296, line 4)

Such information may pass through a chain of distributors and a chain of users; usage information may also be reported through one or more chains of parties; VDE enabling parties that have rights in electronic information, and/or act as direct or indirect agents for parties who have rights in electronic information to ensure that the moving,

accessing, modifying or otherwise using of information can be securely controlled by rules regarding how, when, and by whom such activities can be performed; administrative objects containing audit information in the data area of an event record can be sent from end users to distributors, and/or clearing houses and/or client administrators; audit packets may be required to be dispersed directly from a user to a plurality of auditors; a creator or other controlling party may give distributor the right to process 100,000 audit records; object creator and distributor may require audit information to be passed back to it and are considered "the first of the plurality of users who initially distributed the content to the second of the plurality of user devices, is the one who issues the second settlement log to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second of plurality of user devices".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARISSA THEIN whose telephone number is (571)272-6764. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 3627
January 4, 2009

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627